



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 293**

*February Session, 2004*

House Bill No. 5377

*House of Representatives, March 29, 2004*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. WALLACE of the 109th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICE ENHANCED RENTAL ASSISTANCE CERTIFICATES TO ALLEVIATE ELDERLY HOUSING WAITING LISTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2       (1) "Rental assistance" means rental assistance pursuant to section
- 3       17b-812 of the general statutes; and
- 4       (2) "Support services" means activities that assist eligible households
- 5       to obtain available community services, such as physical health and
- 6       behavioral health services, housing mobility counseling, training in
- 7       independent living skills and tenant responsibilities, peer mentoring
- 8       and peer counseling, crisis intervention, conflict resolution and
- 9       mediation, employment training and education, employment
- 10      counseling and job retention supports.
- 11      (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement and
- 12      administer a program of newly funded rental assistance and support

13 services for low income, nonelderly disabled individuals who are  
14 living in, or on a waiting list for, state assisted housing pursuant to  
15 part VI of section 128 of the general statutes. Said commissioner shall,  
16 to the extent possible, seek federal reimbursement for the costs of such  
17 program through targeted case management or otherwise for any  
18 services that are Medicaid eligible.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable C/R*

PD

**PD**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY05\$	FY06\$
Department of Social Services	GF - See Below	Significant	Significant

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to implement a program of rental assistance and support services for low income non-elderly disabled individuals who are living in or are on a waiting list for state assisted housing, effective July 1, 2004.

The bill does not specifically establish an entitlement to either the rental assistance or support services. Nor does the bill establish any minimums, durations or other standards concerning the amount of services that are to be provided to individuals. Therefore, the overall cost for this new program cannot be determined. However, as the bill establishes a considerable expansion of services, the costs are expected to be significant. The bill specifies that DSS should seek federal reimbursement for this service expansion. Any such federal financial participation would defray the overall cost of the program.

Neither the original FY05 budget, nor the revised FY05 budget (sHB 5033, as passed by the Appropriations Committee) contains funding for this initiative.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 5377

**AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICE ENHANCED RENTAL ASSISTANCE CERTIFICATES TO ALLEVIATE ELDERLY HOUSING WAITING LISTS****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to implement and administer new rental assistance program (RAP) certificates and support services for low-income nonelderly people with disabilities who are living in, or are on a waiting list for, state-assisted elderly housing. Support services are those that help eligible families get community services, like (1) physical and behavioral health services, (2) housing mobility counseling, (3) training in independent living skills and tenant responsibilities, (4) peer mentoring and peer counseling, (5) crisis intervention, (6) conflict resolution and mediation, (7) employment training and education, and (8) employment counseling and job retention.

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to try to fund the new certificates and services, to the extent possible, with federal reimbursement through targeted case management or any Medicaid eligible services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

**BACKGROUND****RAP**

RAP gives rent subsidies to low-income families who live in privately owned rental housing. A family qualifies if its income is under 50% of the median for the area (as determined by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development) where it wishes to live. The state generally pays the difference between what the family can afford and the fair market rent, which DSS determines.

***Nonelderly People with Disabilities and State-Assisted Elderly Housing***

By law, people who qualify to live in state-assisted elderly housing are (1) low-income and at least age 62 or (2) certified as totally disabled and below age 62.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Housing

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 13      Nay 0

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 16      Nay 0